down and their first promotion becomes due only after 5 1/2 years of service as against only after 4 1/2 years earlier;

(b) if so, what are the details of reduction in the starting salary, reduction in rank and increase in the required period of service before first promotion of Army Medical Corps Doctors;

(c) what was the reason for this step when scales of all other Government employees are being revised upwards; and

(d) whether Government proposed to restore status quoante with a view to providing incentives for Doctors to enter Army Medical Corps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The pay scales of doctors in the Army Medical Corps (AMC) were revised on the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, which were made effective from 1-1-86. Induction to the AMC is done in the rank of Lieutenant (pre-internship) or Captain (post-internship). In case of Lieutenant, the minimum starting pay is Rs. 2600/- and for those appointed as Captain it is Rs. 2700/- In case of officers who were in service on 31-12-85, as Captain, the pay was revised as on 1-1-86 and fixed at Rs. 2800/-. The number of years of service required for first promotion from the rank of Captain to Major was reduced from 6 years to 5 years, consequent on the Cadre Review finalised in 1985.

(d) No, Sir.

Central Assessment of Fibrosar Coma Disease in Sarguja District in Madhya Pradesh

765. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of experts had recently been sent from the Centre to the predominantly tribal area of Sarguja district of Madhya Pradesh to assess the nature and extent of the disease fibrosar coma (Cancer);

(b) if so, what are the details of the report submitted by the team; and

(c) what action plan has been laid down in the light of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) A team of experts from the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, under the Indian Council of Medical Research was sent to Sarguja district to assess the nature and extent of the disease fibrosar coma in the tribal area. The team visited Sarguja District Primary Health Centres, the Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur, District Hospital, Sarguja and State Health Directorate at Bhopal.

A total of 24 cases of fibrosar coma have been reported in the Holy Cross Hospital at Ambikapur in a period of 12 years i.e. from 1976 to 1988. The I.C.M.R. is analysing the data.

Eighth Five Year Plan

766. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preparation for the Eighth Five Year Plan has since been completed; and

(b) if so, what are the new thrusts of it as compared to the earlier ones?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The Five Year Plans are formulated through a well established